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General Assembly

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A/51/361
16 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Item 93 of the provisional agenda*

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Progress report of the Secretary-General

1. Since I reported to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in 1995 (A/50/436), I have convened two rounds of talks between the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal in the framework of my continuing good offices on the question of East Timor. I held the seventh round of discussions since 1992 with Foreign Ministers Ali Alatas of Indonesia and Jaime Gama of Portugal in London on 16 January 1996 (see press release SG/SM/5875). This was followed by the eighth round held at Geneva on 27 June 1996 (see Geneva UNIS press release SG/96/5).

2. At the two meetings, the Ministers discussed the implementation of the Chairman's statements adopted by consensus at the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, the importance of which was recognized. At the seventh round, the Ministers welcomed the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala-Lasso, to Jakarta and East Timor in December 1995, during which he held extensive discussions with officials of the Government of Indonesia about the human rights situation in East Timor.

3. The two Foreign Ministers held in-depth discussions on the substantive issues that had been identified previously related to an eventual framework for the achievement of a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor. Without prejudice to their respective positions of principle, the two sides have continued to engage in serious, constructive - albeit difficult - discussions. These efforts are still continuing and will no doubt need patience and perseverance in order to bear fruit.

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* A/51/150.

4. The ninth round of talks will take place in New York on 21 December 1996. In the meantime, my Special Adviser, Mr. Ismat Kittani, will lead discussions in New York between the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the two Governments. As part of these efforts I have continued to consult with East Timorese personalities of various political persuasions.

5. Continuing the useful exercise that began in 1995, I facilitated a second meeting of the All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue, held at Burg Schlaining, Austria, from 19 to 22 March 1996. The Dialogue, which is an effort aimed at enabling the East Timorese to contribute to the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the achievement of a solution to the question of East Timor, was held under the terms agreed upon by the Ministers at the fifth round of talks on 9 January 1995. A representative of the United Nations attended the meeting without taking part in the discussions. The participants, representing a cross-section of East Timorese political opinion and taking part in their individual capacities, adopted the "Burg Schlaining Declaration - 1996" in which they expressed, inter alia, their interest and readiness in continuing the Dialogue. They also conveyed to the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal a proposal for the establishment of an East Timorese cultural centre at Dili, and declared that they would welcome Portuguese assistance to help East Timor's human resources development through such concrete measures as the provision of financial and technical support for East Timor University and practical training of youth in all areas of relevance to the needs of the East Timorese people. The Declaration also reaffirmed the need to implement the necessary measures in the field of human rights in various areas, including the protection of women, with a view to promoting peace, stability, justice and social harmony.

6. At the eighth round of talks in June, the two Ministers considered the proposals of the All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue and agreed to proceed with further consultations on the proposals relating to the establishment of an East Timorese cultural centre and to the development of human resources in East Timor. They also took note positively of my intention to facilitate and offer the necessary arrangements for another meeting of the Dialogue. I am at present consulting with the parties about the time and venue of the meeting. I am encouraged by the positive and constructive approach of the participants of the Dialogue and by their readiness to contribute further to the search for a solution.

7. Given the continued desire of the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal to find a negotiated settlement of the problem, I am confident that the talks being held under my auspices will lead to the achievement of a workable long-term solution. The task at hand is not easy, and I will rely on the continued cooperation of the parties and on their readiness to show greater flexibility for the progress and ultimate success of this exercise.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 58 of the provisional agenda*
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 September 1996 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex, which contains a letter from His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, dated 9 September 1996, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 58 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/150.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 13 September 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 9 September 1996 addressed to you by His Excellency Rauf Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in connection with the latest incident on the island, which involves the murder of a Turkish Cypriot soldier and the serious wounding of another by a Greek Cypriot special military unit.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 58 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus

APPENDIX

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from Mr Rauf R. Denktas addressed to the Secretary-General

Since my last letter to you, dated 21 August 1996, further armed attacks and fatal violence have been directed towards Turkish Cypriot security forces within our borders.

It was the possibility of such violent armed attacks by the Greek Cypriot side, aimed at destabilizing the situation on the island, which, I am sure, prompted Your Excellency to suggest a face-to-face meeting between myself and Mr. Clerides and the Release of a joint statement aimed at reducing the tension.

Sharing your sentiments, I, as you will recall, had promptly agreed. Mr. Clerides, however, saw no benefit in any move aimed at calming inflamed emotions.

Yesterday's murder of a Turkish Cypriot soldier and the serious wounding of another by a Greek Cypriot special military unit leads me to believe that the Greek Cypriot side, however, mistakenly, sees some advantages in heightened tension and violence. I myself do not share this belief.

Hence, with this letter, I feel duty bound to convey to you the grim details of this premeditated murder which occurred within the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

At approximately 4 a.m. on the morning of 8 September 1996, two soldiers from the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces fell victim to a cold-blooded attack while on guard duty. One of the Turkish Cypriot soldiers was instantly killed, while the other was seriously injured and is currently under intensive care.

The assailants violated the border of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the Güvercinlik area, by crossing a road within and under the control of the British Sovereign Base Area Authorities.

All available evidence indicates that this murder was the work of a specially trained unit of professional soldiers belonging to the Greek Cypriot National Guard. Empty shells compatible with Kalashnikov assault rifles were found near the scene of the attack. This particular weapon is commonly used in the Greek Cypriot National Guard arsenal and is issued to the Greek Cypriot militia.

This totally unprovoked attack was carried out under the cover of darkness and can only have been launched with the use of night vision equipment and by professionally trained personnel. Tracer bullets, also part of military equipment, were used.

Further investigations have revealed that plastic explosives were planted under a bridge on the SBA road, approximately 50 metres from the Turkish Cypriot

sentry post. The tactics and weapons used in this attack bear the unmistakable hallmarks of a carefully pre-planned military operation.

I sincerely hope that the United Nations and the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) will strongly condemn and protest this criminal act with Mr. Clerides and stress upon him the utmost urgency of face-to-face talks as soon as possible in order to avert further loss of life. Mr. Clerides can no longer claim there is 'no common ground' for negotiations to restart. If he genuinely wants a mutually acceptable solution and if he sincerely has any respect for the sanctity of human life he will come to the table and help strive for a solution. The parameters set out in your set of ideas should provide us with ample ground for result-oriented negotiation provided the Greek Cypriot side stops aspiring to convert Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot Republic.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Items 11 and 147 of the provisional agenda*
REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 13 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing violation of Iraq's sovereignty and of Iraqi airspace by United States forces.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 11 and 147 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/150.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 11 September 1996 addressed to you (A/51/349-S/1996/742, annex), I should like to inform you that the United States is continuing its policy of aggression against Iraq. The United States forces of aggression and those who support them have continued to violate our airspace. In the violations committed on 11 September 1996, 15 sorties were flown by hostile aircraft over northern Iraq and 57 over southern Iraq; and in the violations committed on 12 September 1996, 15 sorties were flown by hostile aircraft over northern Iraq and 47 over southern Iraq. The sorties flown over northern Iraq were supported by an early-warning AWACS aircraft based in Turkey, and those flown over southern Iraq were supported by an AWACS aircraft based in Saudi Arabia.

Such military action constitutes overt aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

I should also like to take this opportunity to direct your attention to the matter of the two "no-fly zones" imposed on Iraq by the United States and the United Kingdom. The Government of Iraq has stated on many occasions in the past that the maintenance of these "no-fly zones" is a unilateral action taken in the context of the ongoing series of acts of armed aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Government of the Republic of Iraq will require the States that have taken this action to bear international liability for the consequent damage sustained by Iraq.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq urges the United Nations to meet its responsibilities under the Charter and to take the necessary action to halt this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 11 and 147 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq